SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

- Newsletter -

nº 14, October 2000

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, an official council of SAPE was elected at the 5th meeting of the Society in Beijing. As the new President of the SAPE I would like to take a few words to explain the reasons for this action and to indicate what changes might come to SAPE as we move forward to establish a more formal organization. First, a short history of our organization.

In 1985, CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ organized a Round Table at the Université Claude-Bernard in Lyon, France, on the subject of avian evolution as interpreted from the fossil record. In the course of that meeting, the late PIERCE BRODKORB suggested that there should be a society dedicated to the study of avian paleontology and evolution. I was unable to attend that pioneering meeting, but after discussions with some who were there I decided in 1986 to host the next meeting of the still non-existent society at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County in Los Angeles in September, 1988. Although this was only three years after the first Round Table in Lyon, there was general agreement that alternating our quadrennial meetings with those of the International Ornithological Society would be the best means for spacing these two important international meetings, and the 1988 date put us on track. The dates of the second meeting also coincided with PIERCE BRODKORB'S 80th birthday.

In 1987, CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ initiated our now familiar newsletter. She took on the responsibility of gathering news and information from the members of what had now become an informal Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution. She organized these accounts into a coherent newsletter and, despite the difficulties and time involved, she saw the process through to publication and distribution. As Secretary of the Society she faithfully continued to compile and publish the Newsletter through the 13th edition, which appeared in 1999. For most of these years she also served as Treasurer of the Society, receiving voluntary dues payments and the funds from our now traditional auction. These funds were used to cover the production and mailing costs for the Newsletter. The SAPE owes Cécile a deep debt of gratitude for her years of service to the society. We would certainly not be the strong organization we are today without her many years of dedicated efforts on our behalf.

Following the Los Angeles meeting, STEFAN PETERS stepped forward to host our 3rd meeting. This was held at the Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, in June, 1992. STORRS OLSON and HELEN JAMES furthered the goals of the SAPE by hosting our 4th meeting at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C., in June, 1996. And, of course, our 5th meeting was hosted by the IVPP and Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, China, just a few months ago, thanks to MEEMANN CHANG, LIANHAI HOU, ZHONGHE ZHOU, and rest of the host committee. As you will see later in the Newsletter, members of the SAPE have the opportunity to choose between two venues for the next quadrennial meeting, to be held in 2004. Clearly, the SAPE has established an enviable record in its short history, even though it has been an informal scientific society.

Time marches on, however, and the founding members of the SAPE have begun to retire from their official positions. The SAPE has also grown from just a handful of members to be a broad-based international organization with more than a hundred members. These two factors combined brought forth the recognition that it was time to establish a formal organization for the SAPE. Although we have operated quite successfully for many years as an informal society, it was time to establish a means of passing leadership within the

society on to a new generation. It was also time to establish a means for all members to support their society financially.

Thus, as the first step in establishing a formal organization for the SAPE, an Executive Council for the SAPE was elected at the 5th meeting of the Society in Beijing. The members of the council are: KENNETH CAMPBELL, President; PER ERICSON, Vice-President; GERALD MAYR, Secretary; DAVID STEADMAN, Treasurer; and the following council Members-at-Large, HERCULANO ALVARENGA, Brazil; WALTER BOLES, Australia; ANDRZEJ ELZANOWSKI, Poland; HELEN JAMES, United States; ALEXANDR KARHU, Russia; CLAUDIA TAMBUSSI, Argentina; and ZHOU ZHONGHE, China. You will find the email addresses in the membership list at the end of this newsletter. Please do not hesitate contacting any of us with your comments about the SAPE. We encourage you to actively engage in your society to make it even stronger in the future.

The next step in developing a formal organization for the society is the establishment of a set of bylaws that will detail the terms and responsibilities of the various officers of the society, as well as put down on paper the long established practices of the society. To actually go into effect, the bylaws will then have to be voted on by the full membership of the society. Technically, until a set of bylaws is adopted by the membership we will remain an informal group.

Although it is both prudent and to our benefit that we become a formal organization, there is no urgency that requires the process to move forward as rapidly as possible. I prefer to take a calm and deliberative approach, allowing everyone who wishes to participate in the process the opportunity to do so. I also do not want the SAPE to be burdened with exceptional costs for special mailings, so we will pace our efforts to take advantage of our traditional twice-annual mailings. Therefore, the Executive Council will work to prepare a draft of proposed bylaws to be distributed in the July, 2001, mailing, the traditional call for news for the Newsletter. Everyone will be invited to critique the proposed bylaws and suggest changes if they consider them appropriate. If possible, a final draft of the bylaws will then be distributed with the 2001 Newsletter and the membership will be asked to vote on their acceptance. Once a set of bylaws is accepted by the membership we will become a formal organization. At that point we can begin addressing other questions of the SAPE, such as how to secure its financial base and what services the organization can provide to its members. In the meantime, PER ERICSON is moving forward with plans to develop a website for the society, and we hope soon to have a listserv available to facilitate communication among members. We also hope to be sufficiently organized by this time next year that you will be able to obtain the SAPE newsletter directly from the website.

Finally, on a different note, on behalf of the SAPE, I wish to thank the entire Host Committee for the 5th international meeting of the Society, which was held in Beijing, China, June 1-4, 2000. The entire meeting was masterfully organized, including the four-day pre-meeting field trip. The very full scientific sessions were stimulating and well received by all, and the evening social events were well received and deeply appreciated. The field trip was especially appreciated because of the enormous complexities of moving so many people through such a demanding schedule for four days. The keen interest in the avian Mesozoic localities that were the object of the field trip was evident to all. Equally appreciated were the warm welcomes we received from all of the local officials and citizens who facilitated our travels. Congratulations to our hosts for a splendid meeting!

Respectfully yours,
KENNETH E. CAMPBELL

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 31 August 2000, the balance in the SAPE bank account in Gainesville, Florida is US$ 5550,17. This includes a deposit (on 21 June 2000) of US$ 897,00 as a result of the meeting in Beijing. Anyone wishing to contribute to SAPE should make their check or money order (in US$ only) payable to "Society of Avian Paleontology & Evolution (SAPE)" and mail it to DAVID STEADMAN, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, P.O. Box 117800, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA.

DAVID STEADMAN

THE 6TH QUADRENNIAL MEETING OF SAPE: SITE SELECTION

For the first time in the history of SAPE more than one institution has extended an invitation to host the next quadrennial meeting, which will be held in the year 2004. It had become the practice

at prior meetings that a single institution came forth to issue an invitation during the business meeting of the society, which was then accepted by the membership present. Only two basic criteria were established for selecting a host site: the site must be on a different continent than the one where the previous meeting was held; and the host institution must accept the responsibility of organizing and publishing the proceeding of the meeting in an established, peer-reviewed serial publication. It has become tradition that the responsibilities of editor of the meetings' proceedings were assumed by the individual issuing the invitation on behalf of the host institution. All other details were left to the host committee.

Two invitations to host the 2004 quadrennial meeting have been received, one from Europe and one from North America. The entire membership of SAPE is eligible to vote for the venue of their choice. Results of the voting will be posted on the SAPE website (when it becomes available). The specifics of each institutions' invitation are as follows. The potential hosts each indicate that on-site costs during the meeting will be moderate. Both sites will have a small town/rural flavor.

1. Europe

Host Institution: Esperaza Dinosaur Museum, Quillan, eastern foothills of the Pyrennees, southern France.
Organizers: ERIC BUFFETAUT and JEAN LE LOEUFF.
Special features of host institution: Collection of birds from the Upper Cretaceous of Southern France, as well as some Eocene *Gastornis* remains. The meetings will actually be held in the town of Quillan, rather than the museum, because the facilities are better there. This arrangement has been used successfully by the organizers for other meetings.
Suggested time of year: Either within the period May-June or September-October.
Nearest international airport: Toulouse
Proposed field trips: Day trips to local late Cretaceous bird sites will be arranged. A one or two day trip to the famous Tertiary deposits at Phosphorites du Quercy can be arranged. A nearby large prehistory museum at Tautavel houses Middle Pleistocene fossils, including birds.
Publication of collected papers: Editor, ERIC BUFFETAUT; Serial Publication, *Oryctos*, a vertebrate paleontology journal published by the Esperaza Dinosaur Museum, which began in 1998.

2. North America

Host institution: Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
Organizer: DAVID STEADMAN.
Special features of host institution: Houses one of the largest modern avian skeletal collections in the world, including that of the late PIERCE BRODKORB. Strengths in avian paleontology are in the Neogene of Florida and the Quaternary of the Caribbean and Oceania (very little from the Paleogene and nothing from the Mesozoic). An on-campus lake is a great place for viewing aquatic birds.
Suggested time of year: Late May (university out of session; summer heat and humidity not yet intense).
Nearest international airport: Orlando. Miami and Atlanta also available.
Proposed field trips: One or two one-day pre-meeting and/or post-meeting trips to local localities (e.g., Miocene Thomas Farm; Plio-Pleistocene Haile sites) will be arranged. A longer trip to the Pliocene Bone Valley Formation may be possible, depending on conditions at the mines. Local and/or coastal trips for viewing living birds can be arranged.
Publication of collected papers: Editor, DAVID STEADMAN; Serial: *Bulletin of the Florida Museum of Natural History* (formerly *Bulletin of the Florida State Museum*).

NOTE: All members are invited to vote for the venue of their choice by sending notice of their preference to the Secretary of the society, either by email (gmayr@sng.uni-frankfurt.de) or by surface mail. Members may also suggest a preferred time of year for the meeting, but the final decision will be the decision of the host committee. The deadline for casting your vote is **1 January 2001**. No reminder notice will be sent to those not responding, so vote now while it is on your mind!
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ARTICLES ON THE LAST SAPE MEETING IN "NATURE" AND "SCIENCE"

Articles on the 5th Quadrennial Meeting of SAPE in Beijing were published both, in "Nature" and "Science". The references are as follows:

DALTON; R. (2000): "Feathers fly in Beijing." - Nature, 405: 992

DALTON, R. (2000): "Chasing the dragons." - Nature, 406: 930-932.

NORMILE, D. (2000): "New feathered dino firms up bird links." - Sciene, 288: 1721.

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

ARGENTINA

CAROLINA ACOSTA HOSPÌTALECHE is beginning to study the phylogeny, systematics and biogeography of fossil penguins from Patagonia and Antarctica. Together with CLAUDIA TAMBUSSI and MARCELO REGUERO, she is now about finishing a voluminous catalogue (Catálogo de los tipos de aves fósiles del Museo de La Plata).

JORGE I. NORIEGA, together with EDUARDO P. TONNI, has just finished the description of a new species of *Pseudoseisura* (Passeriformes: Furnariidae) from the early-middle Pleistocene of Buenos Aires Province in Argentina. The manuscript was sent to Ornitologia Neotropical recently. Jorge also described additional material of *Macranhinga paranensis* (Pelecaniformes: Anhingidae) from the Late Miocene of Entre Rios Province (Argentina); and he and HERCULANO ALVARENGA performed a phylogeny of the Tertiary giant darters or snake-birds from South America. Both works were presented at the 5th Meeting of SAPE in China.

CLAUDIA TAMBUSSI continues her studies on Cenozoic birds of Argentina and Antarctica. A paper on new remains of phorusrhacids from the late Cenozoic of Uruguay has been published. This record is significant because it is the youngest occurrence of the biggest lineages of this group of birds. She has also been working (together with JORGE NORIEGA) on the hind-limb bones of a medium sized phorusrhacid from the late Miocene of Entre Ríos Province of Argentina; this bird seems to be very similar to another one found in earlier sediments of Santa Cruz (Patagonia). Together with Lic. MARCELO REGUERO and CAROLINA ACOSTA HOSPÌTALECHE, she has finished a catalogue which records the systematic position, and geographic and stratigraphic occurrences of the fossil bird types housed at the Museo de La Plata.

Finally, Claudia wants to send her congratulations to the new president of the SAPE and say that it is a great honor for her to accept the nomination of the SAPE. She will try to do the best in any occasion required by the society.

CRUZ, I. (2000, in press): Los restos de aves de los sitios arqueológicos del Parque Nacional Perito Moreno (Santa Cruz, Argentina). - Anales del Instituto de la Patagonia, 28. [Avian remains in Perito Moreno National Park Archaeological Sites (Santa Cruz, Argentina].

CRUZ, I. (2000, in press): Pingüinos de Cabo Vírgenes: Aspectos tafonómicos e implicaciones arqueológicas. - Actas del XIII Congreso Nacional de Arqueología Argentina, Córdoba. [Penguins of Cabo Virgenes: taphonomic aspects and archaeological implications].

CRUZ, I. & ELKIN, D. (submitted): Bone Structural Density of Lesser Rhea (*Pterocnemia pennata*) (Aves: Rheidae). Taphonomic and Archaeological Implications. - Submitted to Journal of Archaeological Science.

CRUZ, I. & SAVANTI, F. (2000, in press): Tafonomía de restos óseos de aves en el sur de Patagonia. - Actas del XIII Congreso Nacional de Arqueología Argentina, Córdoba. [Taphonomy of avian bone remains in southern Patagonia].

CRUZ, I. (in prep.): Avian Taphonomy: Observations at two Magellanic Penguin (*Spheniscus magellanicus*) Breeding Colonies and their Implications to the Fossil Record.

FERNÁNDEZ, P., CRUZ, I. & ELKIN, D. (2000): Densidad Mineral ósea de Rheidae: Una herramienta para evaluar frecuencias taxonómicas y anatómicas en sitios arqueológicos de Pampa y Patagonia. - Paper to be presented at II Congreso de Arqueología de la Región Pampeana Argentina (Mar del Plata, 27-30 November 2000). [Bone Mineral Density of Rheidae: an instrument to asses taxonomic and anatomic frequencies in archaeological sites of Pampa and Patagonia].

GONZALEZ, I., LANZA, M. & TAMBUSSI, C.P. (in press): Registro arqueofaunístico de aves en ambientes lagunares, curso inferior del Salado-Buenos Aires. - Vol. especial I Congreso de Arqueología de la región Pampeana.

HOSPITALECHE, C.A. (subm.): Primer registro de ñandúes (Aves: Rheiformes) del Mioceno tardío temprano de América del Sur". - Revista del Museo de La Plata.

MYRCHA, A., JADWISZCZAK, P., TAMBUSSI, C., NORIEGA, J., TATUR, A., GAZDZICKI, A. & DEL VALLE, R. (2000, in press): Taxonomic revision of Antarctic Eocene penguins based on tarsometatarsus morphology. - Paleontologica Polonica, 59.

TAMBUSSI, C.P., LÓPEZ, G.M. & ALPERIN, M.I. (1999): Ciencias de la Tierra: conceptos y actividades. 162 pp. - Eudeba (Editorial de la Universidad de Buenos Aires).

TAMBUSSI, C.P., UBILLA, M. & PEREA, D. (1999): The youngest large carnassial bird (Phorusrhacidae, Phorusrhacinae) from South America (Pliocene-early Pleistocene of Uruguay). - J. Vertebrate Paleontology, 19 (2): 406-408

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AUSTRALIA

The main projects of PATRICIA VICKERS-RICH are now on dinosaurs. She is, however, finishing a monograph on dromornithids with PETER MURRAY and she also works on some Early Cretaceous birds from South Australia.

CUBA

SUAREZ, W. (1998): Lista preliminar de las aves cubanas depredadas por *Tyto alba furcata* (Aves: Tytonidae). - Pitirre, 11(1): 12-13.

SUAREZ, W. (2000): Contribucion al conocimiento del estatus generico del condor extinto (Ciconiiformes: Vulturidae) del Cuaternario cubano. - Ornitologia Neotropical, 11: 109-122.

SUAREZ, W. (in press): Fossil evidence for the occurrence of the Cuban Poorwill, *Siphonorhis daiquiri* (Aves: Caprimulgidae), in western Cuba. - Cotinga.

SUAREZ, W. & ARREDONDO, O. (1997): Nuevas adiciones a la paleornitologia cubana. - Pitirre, 10(3): 100-102.

CZECH REPUBLIC

JIRI MLÍKOVSKÝ spent most of the time working on the catalogue of the Cenozoic Birds of Europe. The manuscript will be submitted to press at the end of September. If accepted (it is somewhat longer than expected, almost 600 pp.), then it will appear before the end of this year, as he was assured by the publisher. Proofreading will be probably done in November. Accordingly, he will be much obliged to everybody for reprints of latest papers, because he hopes to be able at that time to include the information in the catalogue.

MLÍKOVSKÝ, J. (2000): Taxonomic identity of *Gyps fulvus spelaeus* Friant, 1950 (Aves: Accipitridae) from the Pleistocene of Belgium. - Buteo, 11: 101-102.

MLÍKOVSKÝ, J. (2000): First record of *Tyto balearica* (Aves: Strigidae) from the Pleistocene of Sardinia. – Buteo, 11: 103-105.

MLÍKOVSKÝ, J. (2000): Early Miocene pratincoles (Aves: Glareolidae) from Dolnice, Czech Republic. – Acta Societatis Zoologicae Bohemiae, 64.

FRANCE

VÉRONIQUE LAROULANDIE hopes that her PhD on the taphonomy and archeozoology of birds from French cave deposits will be finished at the end of 2000. In November, part of her dissertation will be presented at Nanterre (France) during the CPF conference. The results of these investigations on damages to bird bones by raptors will be presented on the next SAPE-meeting. Her paper on the damage of bird bones through "experimental butchery" is submitted for publication. Together with S. COSTAMAGNO she is organising a symposium for the next UISPP meeting on "zooarchaeological insights into life ways".

CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ and ANTOINE LOUCHART have worked on the application of the method of cenograms to fossil avifaunas. Cenograms make it possible to study the structure of mammalian communities and to draw some conclusions concerning the physical characteristics of the environment (temperature and humidity). This method has been applied to mammalian paleocommunities especially by S. LEGENDRE. A. LOUCHART has established a great number of cenograms for recent bird communities and his conclusion is that this method can be applied, with some restrictions, to bird faunas. C. MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ has realized the cenograms of the Phosphorites du Quercy avifaunas and is now working on those of Saint-Gérand-le-Puy.

Cécile has been very happy to take part at the 5th International Meeting of the SAPE in Beijing, and at the field trip which preceded it. The participants have been welcome as princes by our Chinese colleagues, and were made enthusiastic by the splendid fossils of dinosaurs and birds found in the Liaoning Province. During this meeting, Cécile has resigned her position as Secretary of the SAPE. She expresses her best wishes to the newly elected Executive Committee and to her successor as Secretary, GERALD MAYR. During this meeting, Cécile has presented a revision of the Cathartidae of Phosphorites du Quercy, and, in collaboration with MARCO PAVIA, a manuscript about the genus *Athene* in the Mediterranean Islands, with the description of a new species from Sicily. In July, Cécile took part at a new campaign of fieldwork in the marsh of Ermitage, on Réunion Island. The excavations had been interrupted for four years. As usual, thousands of bones of the extinct, large land-tortoise, *Cylindraspis borbonica*, were found, and a few bones of the extinct birds *Alopochen* (*M.*) *kervazoi* and *Fulica newtonii*. Finally, she has prepared in collaboration with ANTOINE LOUCHART, MARCO PAVIA, and BARTOMEU SEGUI an inventory of the Middle and Upper Pleistocene avifaunas of the Mediterranean Islands. This inventory resumes and updates that which has been established by J.A. ALCOVER and others for the 2nd international meeting of the SAPE in Los Angeles, in 1988. This

inventory includes new data, particularly about the avifaunas of Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia, and Cyprus.

THIERRY ROGER is currently doing a PhD on bird remains from the following Mediterranean Pleistocene sites: Arago, Lazaret, Orgnac (France), Kalamakia (Greece), Fate, Manie (Italy).

BRUNET, M. & M.P.F.T. (Mission Paléo-anthropologique Franco-Tchadienne, 41 coauthors, including A. LOUCHART & C. MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ) (2000): Chad: Discovery of a vertebrate fauna biochronologically close to the Mio-Pliocene boundary. - Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, 20(1): 205-209.

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (1999): Influence de l'homme sur la répartion de certains oiseaux marins: l'exemple du Grand pingouin, *Pinguinus impennis*. - Alauda, 67(4): 273-279.

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (1999): Réponse aux observations de J. C. Rage à la note: Les relations entre les avifaunes du Tertiaire inférieur d'Europe et d'Amérique du Sud. - Bulletin de la Société géologique de France, 1999, 6: 953-954.

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2000): A new species of *Ameripodius* (Aves: Galliformes: Quercymegapodiidae) from the Lower Miocene of France. Palaeontology, 43(3): 481-493.

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. & ANTUNES, M.T. (2000): L'avifaune pléistocène et holocène de Gruta da Figueira Brava (Arrabida, Portugal). - Memorias de l'Academia das Ciências de Lisboa, Classe de Ciências, 38: 117-149.

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C., BOUR, R., RIBES, S. & MOUTOU, F. (1999): The Avifauna of Réunion Island (Mascarene Islands) at the time of arrival of the First Europeans. - In: OLSON, S.L. (ed.): Avian Paleontolgy at the close of the 20th Century: Proceedings of the 4th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution, Washington, D.C., 4-7 June 1996. Smithsonian Contribution to Paleobiology, 89: 1-38.

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C., BOUR, R., RIBES, S. & MOUTOU, F. (2000): Le Solitaire de la Réunion: Match Ibis contre Dodo blanc, troisième manche. - Le Taille-Vent, Saint-Denis de la Réunion, 5-6: 14-18

GERMANY

After years of transactions and thanks to the special actions of PETER WELLNHOFER, the Bayerische Staatssammlung für Paläontologie und Historische Geologie München (BSP) now owns and houses the type and only specimen of *Archaeopteryx bavarica* WELLNHOFER 1993 (Coll. No. BSP 1999 I 50), the seventh specimen and "Münchner Exemplar" of *Archaeopteryx*.

URSULA B. GÖHLICH has nearly finished her studies on the avifauna of the middle Miocene fossil site of Sandelzhausen (Bavaria, Southern Germany), which have been presented during the SAPE meeting. Additionally, in preparation are studies on the first record of birds (Pelecaniformes: Phalacrocoracidae; Anseriformes) from the lower Miocene of Rauscheröd (Bavaria, Germany), on Strigiformes from the Miocene of Southern Germany and on the rich avifauna (Passeriformes, Galliformes (*Palaeortyx*, *Palaeocryptonyx*), Piciformes (*Zygodactylus*), Strigiformes, Charadriiformes (Glareolidae), Coraciiformes, Aves indet.) of the lower Miocene fissure filling of Petersbuch 2 (Franconian Alb, Germany). She has also made an inventory of the fossil bird collection of the Bavarian State Collection Munich. Because this collection was badly destroyed during the war, most of the "pre-war" type specimens do not exist anymore, although often cited to be housed here.

GERALD MAYR described two new charadriiform taxa from the Oligocene of Céreste (Southern France) which show affinities to button-quails (Turnicidae). Together with STEFAN PETERS he studied several complete and beautifully preserved specimens of procellariiform birds from the Oligocene Germany. In a cooperative study together with MICHAEL DANIELS, he reinvestigated the paratype of *Prefica nivea* which belongs to a new genus and species of primitive landbirds. Together with RICHARD SMITH, he started to study a rich aquatic avifauna from the lowermost Oligocene of Belgium. His main research interest, however, still is the Middle Eocene avifauna of Messel, where several studies could be completed.

STEFAN PETERS focuses on the anatomy of the skull of *Confuciusornis*. Although so many specimens are known, at least three different reconstructions of the skull were published so far. Many details are still unclear.

HARALD PIEPER currently determines songbird bones from Greek owl pellets, and also works on the comparative osteology of Mediterranean barn owls.

After finishing a molecular study on the phylogeny of parrots, ILKA WEIDIG started a PhD on the fossil avifauna of the Green River Formation (Wyoming). Any help in locating Green River birds in North American collections apart from the NMNH and the FMNH would be greatly appreciated.

GÖHLICH, U.B. (1999): Aves. - In: DARGA, R., BÖHME, M., GÖHLICH, U.B. & RÖSSNER, G.E. (eds.): Reste höherer Wirbeltiere aus dem Alttertiär des Alpenvorlandes bei Siegsdorf/Oberbayern. Mitteilungen der Bayerischen Staatssammlung für Paläontologie und historische Geologie, 39: 91-114.

GÖHLICH, U.B. (2000): The avifauna from the Miocene fossil site of Sandelzhausen (Bavaria, Southern Germany). - Vertebrata PalAsiatica, 38 (Suppl.): 14 (abstract)

GÖHLICH, U.B. & RÖSSNER, G.E. (1999): Miozäne Wirbeltiere aus der Oberen Süßwassermolasse von Sandelzhausen (Süddeutschland). - Terra Nostra (Vorträge und Poster der 69. Jahrestagung der Paläontologischen Gesellschaft in Zürich, Schweiz), 8: 93 (abstract).

MAYR, G. (1999): *Pumiliornis tessellatus* n. gen. n. sp., a new enigmatic bird from the Middle Eocene of Grube Messel (Hessen, Germany). - Courier Forsch.-Inst. Senckenberg, 216: 75-83.

MAYR, G. & GREGOR, H.-J. (1999): Eine fossile Ralle aus dem Plio-Pleistozän von Bobila Ordis bei Banyols (Gerona, NE-Spanien). - Documenta naturae, 127: 1-7.

MAYR, G. (2000): A new mousebird (Coliiformes: Coliidae) from the Oligocene of Germany. - J. Ornithol., 141(1): 85-92.

MAYR, G. (2000): A remarkable new "gruiform" bird from the Middle Eocene of Messel (Hessen, Germany). - Paläontologische Zeitschrift, 74(1/2): 187-194.

MAYR, G. (2000): A new raptor-like bird from the Lower Eocene of North America and Europe. - Senckenbergiana lethaea, 80(1): 59-65.

MAYR, G. (2000): A new basal galliform bird from the Middle Eocene of Messel (Hessen, Germany). - Senckenbergiana lethaea, 80(1): 45-57.

MAYR, G. (2000): Tiny hoopoe-like birds from the Middle Eocene of Messel (Hessen, Germany). - Auk, 117(4): 968-974.

MAYR, G. (2000): Avian remains from the Middle Eocene of the Geiseltal (Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany). - Vertebrata PalAsiatica, 38 (Suppl.): 19-20 (abstract).

MAYR, G. & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2000): Rollers (Aves: Coraciiformes s.s.) from the Middle Eocene of Messel (Germany) and the Upper Eocene of the Quercy (France). - Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, 20(3): 533-546.

MAYR, G. & PETERS, D.S. (1999): A record of *Cossypha heinrichi* RAND 1955 near Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo) with a comment on the osteology of this species (Aves: Passeriformes: Turdidae). - Senckenbergiana biologica, 79(2): 251-253.

MLÍKOVSKÝ, J. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (submitted): Taxonomic identity of *Limnatornis paludicola* Milne-Edwards, 1871, with comments on the fossil record of wood-hoopoes (Aves: Phoeniculidae).

PETERS, D.S. (1999): *Selmes absurdipes*, New Genus, New Species, a Sandcoleiform Bird from the Oil Shale of Messel (Germany, Middle Eocene). - Smithsonian Contributions to Paleontology, 89: 217-222.

PETERS, D.S. (2000): Die Lage der Vogelsystematik - Fortschritte und immanente Hemmnisse. - J. Ornithol., 141: 263-274.

PETERS, D.S. (2000): Biologische Anmerkungen zur Frage nach dem Sinn des Leidens in der Natur. - In: KESSLER, H (ed.): Leben durch Zerstörung?: 27-37. Echter Verlag, Würzburg.

PETERS, D.S. & HAMEDANI, A. (2000): *Frigidafons babaheydariensis* n. sp., ein Sturmvogel aus dem Oligozän des Irans (Aves: Procellariidae). - Senckenbergiana lethaea, 80(1): 29-37.

PETERS, D.S. & MAYR, G. (2000): Jagdglück im Sammlungskasten. - Natur und Museum, 130(1): 13-15.

PETERS, D.S. & TÜRKAY, M. (1999): Goethe und die Zoologie. - In: STEININGER, F.F. & KOSSATZ-POMPÉ, A. (eds.): "Quer durch Europa." Kleine Senckenbergreihe, 30: 105-109.

PETERS, D.S. & WEINGARTEN, M. (2000, eds.): Organisms, Genes and Evolution. 243 pp. - Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart.

GREAT BRITAIN

For the past year JOANNE COOPER has been continuing to work at the Bird Group at The Natural History Museum, and has gained her PhD. She is now attached to the Department of Zoology as a research associate. She has been mainly working on projects related to Gibraltar or the Chatham Islands, but has also got involved with some research on ancient Egyptian bird mummies held by the NHM. However, by the time this newsletter is published, she should be in New Zealand, pursuing her work on the NHM subfossil Chatham collections at Te Papa in Wellington.

Since retiring from the staff of the Natural History Museum in Tring and London, GRAHAM S. COWLES still reviews and updates his work on the Mascarene Island birds.

Following a period when, due to health problems, MICHAEL DANIELS was prevented from visiting The Naze (Lower Eocene deposits), this year it was again possible to continue his activities at the locality. Unfortunately, over the past two months the usually productive London Clay has been virtually obscured by sand and the growth of seaweed. Before then, especially from February to May, Michael enjoyed access to exceptional exposures of the formation. As a result of which he secured a further fifteen individual birds, bringing his overall acquisitions for this place to exceed 700 specimens. Once again the finds reflected the remarkable diversity of avian fossil types occurring in the low horizons of the London Clay.

GARETH DYKE has finished his PhD at the University of Bristol, and will move as a postdoc to the AMNH, New York.

ANNE EASTHAM has continued to build up an European database of avian eggshell patterns. This is being done in collaboration with Dr. IOLO AP GWYNN of the SEM department of the Institute of

Biology, University of Wales, Aberystwyth and is based on the species specific nature of the inner surface of a bird's egg. Micrographs of each species are used as training data for an LVQ neural network programme which can then be applied to palaeontological specimens of unknown species and identify them. All the training data is being recorded on CD so that as groups of related genera are studied, the material can be made available for archaeological, forensic or other requirements. The technique may also be applied to other taxons where biological variation makes accurate determinations difficult.

JOE PARISH is to undertake a PhD on Ankylosaurian Dinosaurs at Oxford University in October, although his interest in avian palaeontology continues.

DYKE, G.J. & WATERHOUSE, D.M. (2000, in press): A mousebird (Aves, Coliiformes) from the London Clay. - J. Ornithol., 143.

EASTHAM, A. (1998): Magdalenians and Snowy Owls: bones recovered at the Grotte de Bourrouilla, Arancou (Pyrénées Atlantiques). - Paleo, 10: 95-108.

EASTHAM, A. (1998): Buhlen Upper cave: the Avifauna, an interim report. - Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums, Mainz, 45: 251-266.

EASTHAM, A. (2000): Les oiseaux et la Microfaune. - In: CHAUCHAT, C. (ed.): L'Habitat Magdalénien de la Grotte de Bourrouilla à Arancou (Pyrénées Atlantiques). - Gallia Préhistoire, 41: 113-127.

EASTHAM, A. (in press): Choughs, Man and a shared environment: A study of Chough bones from Upper Pleistocene sites in southwest Europe. - In: Festschrift für Anneke Clason. Groningen Institute of Archaeology, Groningen.

ITALY

CLAUDIA BEDETTI finished university at the end of last year with a dissertation about the Late Pleistocene avifauna of Ingarano (Puglia, Italy), made at the university of Rome. Together with MARCO PAVIA, she is working on the avifauna of Ingarano. This avifauna is dominated by *Pyrrhocorax graculus* but birds of prey, such as *Nyctea scandiaca*, *Aquila* sp. and *Falco* spp., are abundant. She is also involved in the study of a fossil eagle from the Mediterranean region, coordinated by ANTOINE LOUCHART and MARCO PAVIA. She is working with MARCO PAVIA on the revision of the avifauna of the historical locality Dragonara in Sardinia. This avifauna was previously published by MALATESTA and SURIANO in 1970 in a preliminary report, but these authors did not make the complete study of this avifauna. Claudia is further working on fossil bird remains from various Middle Pleistocene sites in the Rome area, together with other paleontologists of the University of Rome who are working on mammals from the same localities.

MONICA GALA will present a paper on birds bones from Grotta Paglicci (levels 24-22 Aurignacian-Early Gravettian) at the III Congress of the Italian Archaeozoologists, which will be held in Siracusa from the 3rd to the 5th of November 2000. She also will study bird bones from the Mesolithic and Neolithic levels of Grotta dell'Uzzo (province of Trapani, Sicilia) and from the levels of the Upper Palaeolithic of Grotta della Madonna di Praia a Mare (province of Cosenza, Calabria). She will continue her researches on the human exploitation of birds. In order to increase the comparative collection of the Paleontology and Archaeozoology Laboratory of the Pigorini Museum she is in touch with the Centre for raptor recovery of the Lipu (Lega italiana protezione uccelli) at the zoo of Rome.

MARCO PAVIA would like to thank all members of the Organization Committee of the SAPE Meeting in Beijing for their efforts to organize this pleasant meeting with nice people and good scientific contents. He does not have much to report for the last year, in fact he is in the last year of his PhD. Since he has to finish his thesis on the Pleistocene birds of Southern Italy at the end of this year, he spent much of his time working on it. Because new findings of particular interest were made during field works and museum surveys in October 1999, his work mainly focused on Sicily. Together with C. MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, he also finished the description of a new species of *Athene* from the Middle Pleistocene of Sicily, presented at Beijing during the SAPE Meeting. He is still working on the revision of the Mio-Pliocene avifauna from Gargano, but this work is proceeding slowly because of the preparation of the PhD thesis. He also still works with ANTOINE LOUCHART from Lyon and other European researchers on a paper about Mediterranean eagles. He is working with CLAUDIA BEDETTI from Rome on the description of the Late Pleistocene avifauna of Ingarano, Southern Italy, and on the revision of the Pleistocene avifauna of Dragonara.

CARLO VIOLANI is currently revising the literature on and museum specimens of the extinct starling of Réunion, *Fregilupus varius*. He is also interested in extinct bird faunas of other insular environments.

BEDETTI, C. (1999): L'Avifauna Pleistocenica di Ingarano (Apricena, Foggia). - Unpublished Thesis, 172 pp.

BEDETTI, C., PAVIA, M. & PETRONIO, C. (2000): L'avifauna pleistocenica di Ingarano (Foggia – Italia meridionale): considerazioni paleoambientali. - Abstract book del I workshop nazionale di

paleontologia dei vertebrati, Reggio Calabria-S. Vito Lo Capo, 4.-6. March 2000.

PAVIA, M. (2000): Le avifaune pleistoceniche della Sicilia e loro significato biocronologico e paleoambientale. - Abstract book of the "I workshop nazionale di Paleontologia dei Vertebrati", Reggio Calabria-S. Vito Lo Capo, 4.-6. March 2000.

PAVIA, M & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2000): An overview on the genus *Athene* in the Pleistocene Mediterranean Islands with the description of a new species of *Athene* (Aves, Strigiformes). - Vertebrata PalAsiatica, 38 (Supplement): 24-25.

PETRONIO, C., BEDETTI, C. & SARDELLA, R. (2000): Faune a vertebrati del Galeriano dell'Italia centro-meridionale: nuovi dati, considerazioni paleobiogeografiche e biocronologiche. - Abstract book of the "I workshop nazionale di Paleontologia dei Vertebrati", Reggio Calabria-S. Vito Lo Capo, 4.-6. March 2000.

RUSTIONI, M., FERRETTI, M.P., MAZZA, P., PAVIA, M. & VAROLA, A. (1999): The vertebrate fauna from Cardamone (Apulia, Southern Italy): an example of Mediterranean Mammoth fauna. - Abstracts of 2nd International Mammoth Conference, Rotterdam 16.-20. May 1999.

TAGLIACOZZO, A. (2000): I dati archeozoologici, strategie di allevamento e caccia a Grotta della Madonna di Praia a Mare (CS), nel quadro del Neolitico, Eneolitico e Età del Bronzo dell'Italia Meridionale, in La Grotta del Santuario della Madonna (Praia a Mare - Cosenza). - Livelli olocenici, Memorie dell'Istituto Italiano di Paleontologia Umana, N.S. 6: 101-150.

TAGLIACOZZO, A. & GALA, M. (in prep.): L'avifauna dei livelli 24–22 (Aurignaziano e Gravettiano antico) di Grotta Paglicci: l'aspetto ambientale e quello economico, in I livelli dell'Aurignaziano e del Gravettiano di Grotta Paglicci, a cura di Palma di Cesnola A.

JAPAN

HIROSHIGE MATSUOKA and YOSHIKAZU HASEGAWA just began to study an almost complete skeleton of a large swan from the Miocene (12 Mya) formation of Gunma Prefecture (north of Tokyo). It shows a thin humerus, short ulna, radius, and carpometacarpus, a low carina of the sternum, and unfused vertebrae of the pelvis which indicate flightlessness. The humerus looks similar to that of *Megalodytes* HOWARD 1988, and so they tentatively identified it as aff. *Megalodytes* sp.. Detailed preparation is going on and they hope to see a good example of evolution.

MATSUOKA, H. (2000): The Late Pleistocene fossil birds of the Central and Southern Ryukyu Islands, and their zoogeographical implications for the recent avifauna of the Archipelago. - Tropics, 10(1): 165-188.

MATSUOKA, H., MAKIGUCHI, T. & KOIKE, H. (1998): Preliminary notes on the avian remains of the Middle Miocene Bessho Formation, Toyoshina, Nagano and the taphonomic aspects.- Res. Rep. Shinshushinmachi Fossil Museum, 1: 43-48. (in Japanese with English abstract).

MATSUOKA, H., SAKAKURA, F. & OHE, F. (1998): A Miocene pseudodontorn (Pelecaniformes: Pelagornithidae) from the Ichishi Group of Misato, Mie Prefecture, Central Japan. - Paleontological Research, 2(4): 246-252.

OLSON, S.L. & HASEGAWA, Y. (1996): A new genus and two new species of gigantic Plotopteridae from Japan (Aves: Pelecaniformes). - Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, 16(4): 742-751.

UNWIN, D.M. & MATSUOKA, H. (2000): Pterosaurs and birds. - In: Fossils of the Kuwajima "Kaseki-kabe" (Fossil bluff). Scientific report on a Neocomian (Early Cretaceous) fossil assemblage from the Kuwajima Formation, Tetori Group, Shiramine, Isikawa, Japan: 99-104. (in Japanese).

MEXICO

GERARDO GONZALEZ-BARBA is just beginning to work on Tertiary birds from Baja California Sur, in colaboration with JIM GOEDERT from Washington.

NEW ZEALAND

TREVOR WORTHY reports that they now have proof in a fossil bone of a pigeon having been found on the Kermadec Group north of New Zealand, that there was the New Zealand Pigeon *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*. Biologists there had a conference to mark the entering of the new millennium in which the aim was to document New Zealands species diversity. They used this chance to compile a list of New Zealands breeding bird species as they were prior to human contact about 1000 yrs BP. Much local endemism, large numbers of migrants, vagrants, extinctions, and recent introductions (natural and human-induced) have made such a list difficult to achieve previously. Hopefully it will be of use for analyses of New Zealand faunas in the future. Hopefully the volume will be published soon. Work on the Fijian fossil birds is progressing with descriptions of the fossil

megapodes in press in the Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

STEADMAN, D.W., WORTHY, T.H., ANDERSON, A.J. & WATER, R. (2000): New species and records of birds from prehistoric sites on Niue, Southwest Pacific. - Wilson Bulletin, 112(2): 165-186.

WORTHY, T.H. (2000): Two late-Glacial avifaunas from eastern North Island, New Zealand - Te Aute Swamp and Wheturau Quarry. - Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand, 30(1): 1-26.

WORTHY, T.H. (2000): New Zealand Pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) on Raoul Island, Kermadec Group. - Notornis, 47: 36-38.

WORTHY, T.H. (2000): The prey of peregrine falcons Falco peregrinus as determined by skeletal remains from Joske's Thumb, Viti Levu. - Domodomo, 12(2)[1999]: 44-48.

WORTHY, T.H., ANDERSON, A.J. & MOLNAR, R.E. (1999): Megafaunal expression in a land without mammals - the first fossil faunas from terrestrial deposits in Fiji. - Senckenbergiana biologica, 79(2): 237-242.

WORTHY, T.H., HOLDAWAY, R.N., TENNYSON A.J.D. & BARTLE, J.A. (in press): First contact to the present, documenting changes in diversity in birds (Class Aves). - The New Zealand Inventory of Biodiversity: A Species 2000 Symposium Review.

POLAND

ZBIGNIEW M. BOCHENSKI and TERESA TOMEK finished the comparative osteology of European corvids. The paper was published in spring. They have also been busy preparing shorter papers concerning chosen aspects of the osteology of corvids. Zbigniew got involved in the organization of the IV International Meeting of the ICAZ Bird Working Group, Cracow 2001 (see separate announcement below).

ZYGMUNT BOCHENSKI wrote and submitted to the Great Encyclopaedia the second set of entries on fossil birds; the last part will be prepared later. Together with TERESA TOMEK he completed a paper concerning habitat implications of bird remains from the Holocene locality El Nabta in the S-Egyptian Sahara. An archaeological monograph of this locality will be published in the USA, at the end of 2000 or in the beginning of 2001. Together with ZBIGNIEW M. BOCHENSKI, he prepared a paper on palaeogeographical implications concerning bird history, which was presented by Zbigniew at the SAPE Symposium in Beijing this spring and which is submitted to the Proceedings. Zygmunt also submitted a short revue of the Mesozoic birds from the Liaoning Province in China to "Przeglad zoologiczny" ("Zoological revue", a Polish quarterly journal).

ANDRZEJ ELZANOWSKI continues his work on the paleobiology and systematics of *Archaeopteryx* and moves towards other Mesozoic birds.

TERESA TOMEK, together with ZYGMUNT, worked on the birds from El Nabta, and together with ZBIGNIEW she finished the osteology of European corvids. She spent plenty of time in preparing the second volume (Passeriformes) of her monograph on the recent bird fauna of North Korea. The first volume (Non-Passeriformes) was published in Acta zoologica cracoviensia, vol. 42(1). The handbook "Podstawy archeozoologii. Ptaki" (Fundamentals of Archaeozoology. Birds) is to be published by Polish Scientific Publishers in October 2000.

BOCHENSKI, Z. (1999): Enanthiornithes: earlier birds than Archaeopteryx? - Smithsonian Contributions to Paleobiology, 89: 285-288.

BOCHENSKI, Z. (1999): Awantura o piora i nie tylko. [A row about feathers and things – a popular article including discussion on birds and feathered dinosaurs]

BOCHENSKI, Z. & BOCHENSKI, Z. M. (2000): Palaeogeographical implications concerning early history of chosen groups of birds. - Vertebrata PalAsiatica, 38 Supplement: 1-2. (abstract).

BOCHENSKI, Z. M. & TOMEK, T. (2000): Identification of bones of galliform hybrids.- Journal of Archaeological Science, 27(8): 691-698.

ELZANOWSKI, A. (1999): A comparison of the jaw skeleton in theropods and birds, with a description of the palate in the Oviraptoridae. - Smithsonian Contributions to Paleobiology, 89: 311-323.

ELZANOWSKI, A. & PASKO, L. (1999): A skeletal reconstruction of *Archaeopteryx*. - Acta Ornithologica, 34: 123-129.

TOMEK, T. & BOCHENSKI, Z.M. (2000): The comparative osteology of European corvids (Aves: Corvidae), with a key to the identification of their skeletal elements. 102 pp. - Publications of the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, Kraków.

ROMANIA

In February, ERIKA and EUGEN GÁL were on a study trip to Paris where they visited the bird bone collections. Erika continues her PhD-studies on the Quaternary bird fauna of Romania. Besides, she participates in three paleontological and archaeological projects (two of which are in Hungary). Eugen has won a governmental grant to study the recent and fossil vertebrate fauna of the Kingforest Mountains (Muntii Padurea Craiului) in Romania. He and Erika already have collected

samples from many caves of this region. Eugen continues his work on an applied osteological handbook. It will contain all skeletal data (bones of the pectoral girdle, forelimb and hind-limb) of recent and fossil European birds, and it will be published until the end of 2000. Any suggestions on this subject are welcome. He also asks for the approval of the authors regarding the published figures and photographs.

GÁL, E**.** (2000): Palaeoecological and palaeo-climatical observations on the Quaternary Transsylvanian avifaunas. - 3rd Hungarian Palaeontological Session (5.-6. May, 2000, Tihany, Hungary), abstract volume: 10-11. [In Hungarian].

GÁL, E**.** (2000): The Early and Middle Pleistocene Bird Fauna of Betfia (Romania). - Vertebrata PalAsiatica, 38 (Suppl.): 11.

GÁL, E. & KESSLER, E. (2000): Subfossil Bird Remains from Schela Cladovei in Connection with the Holocene Avifauna of the Iron Gates. - The Iron Gates in Prehistory: New Perspectives (30. March - 2. April 2000, Edinburgh, UK), abstract volume: 16-17.

GÁL, E., HÍR, J., KESSLER, E., KÓKAY J., MÉSZÁROS, L. & VENCZEL, M. (1998-99): Middle Miocene fossils from the sections at the Rákóczi Chapel at Mátraszõlõs. - Folia Historico Naturalia Musei Matraensis, 23: 33-78. [In Hungarian].

GÁL, E., HÍR, J., KESSLER, E., KÓKAY J., MÉSZÁROS, L. & VENCZEL, M. (1999): Middle Miocene fossils from Mátraszõlõs 1. (Hungary). - Nógrád Megyei Múzeumok Évkönyve, 23: 41-48. [In Hungarian].

GÁL, E., HÍR, J., KESSLER, E., KÓKAY J., MÉSZÁROS, L. & VENCZEL, M. (in press): Middle Miocene fossils from Mátraszõlõs 2. (Hungary). - Folia Historico Naturalia Musei Matraensis.

KESSLER, E. (2000): Feathered reptiles are birds? - 3rd Hungarian Palaeontological Session (5-6 May, 2000, Tihany, Hungary), abstract volume: 17-18. [In Hungarian].

KESSLER, E. (2000): Preliminary Revision of the Early Cretaceous Bird Remain from Cornet (Romania). - Vertebrata PalAsiatica, 38 (Suppl.): 16.

RUSSIA

In May, ANDREI PANTELEYEV undertook an expedition to Mangyshlak Peninsula on the east coast of the Caspian Sea (Kazakhstan Republic). The primary goal of field work was to study Late Eocene deposits with rich vertebrate faunas. As a result, there were found a synsacrum and a coracoid of Presbyornithidae. Other bird bones (synsacrum and phalanx) have not been identified yet. In summer, he has been working in central and southern parts of European Russia in order to search for new Cretaceous and Paleogene sites which could yield fossil bird bones.

PANTELEYEV A.V. (1999): The systematic position of the Eocene bird *Asiavis phosphatica*. - Zoosystematica Rossica, 8(2): 351-352.

PANTELEYEV A.V. (1999): The Late Cretaceous Enantiornithes of southwestern margin of ancient Asia. - VII Internat. Symp. on Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosyst. Abstr. Buenos Aires: 48.

PANTELEYEV A.V. & POTAPOVA O.R. (2000): Late Holocene birds from an archaeological site near Salekhard (North-Western Siberia). - The Russian J. of Ornithol. Express-issue, 106: 3-31.

POTAPOVA O.R. & PANTELEYEV A.V. (1999): Birds in economy and culture of Early Iron Age inhabitants of Ust' Poluysk, Lower Ob' River, Northwestern Siberia. - Smithson. Contrib. to Paleobiol., 89.: 129-137.

YARKOV A.A. & NESSOV L.A. (2000): New remains of hesperornithiform birds Hesperornithiformes from the Volgograd Region. - The Russian J. of Ornithol. Express-issue, 94: 3-12.

SPAIN

In the last months, JUAN CARLOS RANDO has been working on endemic giant lizards from the Canary Islands, so his projects on fossil birds proceed slowly. Actually, he continues working on lizards and on bird bones from volcanic caves on El Hierro, the Western-most and smallest island of the canaries. He thinks that this paper will be finished by the end of this year. He also hopes that in the future he will have more time to work on fossils birds from the Macaronesian region.

The projects of BARTOMEU SEGUI mainly concern the paleornithology of the Balearics. Together with J. ALCOVER he focused on the Plio-Pleistocene of the Gymnesics, but a study on some aspects of the Pityusic islands will also come out soon.

The recent work of LLUÍS GARCIA PETIT includes the study of bird remains from Sovjan (Holocene, Albania), and from La Draga, Sant Pere Sacama & Minferri (all from the Holocene of Catalonia). His next project is a compilation of the reports on bird bones from catalan archaeological sites that he prepared during the last decade, most of which have not been published. He intends to present this work at the next ICAZ Bird Working Group Meeting, which is held next year in Poland.

ALCOVER, J.A., BOVER, P. & SEGUÍ, B. (1999): Una aproximació a la paleoecologia de les illes. - In: Ecologia de les Illes. Monografies de la Societat d'Història Natural de les Balears, 6: 169-204. Societat d'Història Natural de les Balears, Palma de Mallorca.

ALCOVER, J.A., SEGUÍ, B. & BOVER, P. (1999): Extinctions and Local Disappearances of Vertebrates in the Western Mediterranean Islands. - In: MACPHEE, R. (ed.): Extinctions in Near Time: 165-188. Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, New York.

GARCIA, L. (1998): Les restes d'au del jaciment subaquàtic de Culip VI. - In: NIETO & RAURICH (eds.): Excavacions arqueològiques sub-aquàtiques a Cala Culip. 2, Culip VI, Girona: 259-260.

GARCIA, L. (1999): Les oiseaux de Lattes et leur exploitation pendant l'Antiquité. - In: PY (dir.): Recherches sur le quatrième siècle avant notre ère à Lattes. Lattara, 12: 609-634.

PAYROS, A., ASTIBIA, H., CEARRETA, A., PEREDA-SUBERBIOLA, X., MURELAGA, X. & BADIOLA, A. (2000): The Upper Eocene South-Pyrenean Coastal Deposits (Liedena Sandstone, Navarre): Sedimentary Facies, Benthic Foraminifera and Avian Ichnology. - Facies, Erlangen, 42: 107-132.

SEGUÍ, B. (1999): A Late Tertiary Woodcock from Menorca, Balearic Islands, Western Mediterranean. - The Condor, 101: 909-915.

SEGUÍ, B. & ALCOVER, J.A. (1999): Comparison of Paleontological Patterns in Insular bird Faunas: A Case Study from the Western Mediterranean and Hawaii. - In: OLSON, S.L. (ed.): Avian Paleontology at the Close of the 20th Century: Proceedings of the 4th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution, Washington, D.C., 4-7 June 1996. Smithsonian Contributions to Paleobiology, 89: 67-73.

SWEDEN

The last year, PER ERICSON has been studying higher-level relationships in birds, mostly passerines, utilizing DNA sequence data and morphology. Four papers on this issue, co-authored with colleagues and students in Sweden and USA, have been accepted for publication, and a few more are submitted. He also has finished his study of the New World material of the Presbyornithidae, and a publication will soon appear in the PaleoBios. He found the SAPE meeting in Beijing in June to be extremely interesting, and he is most grateful to the host, the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, for arranging a fantastic conference, and not least for organizing the fascinating and stimulating field trips. It is thus with the greatest pleasure, he has accepted an invitation by the Chinese colleagues Prof. HOU LIANHai and Dr. FUCHENG ZHANG to collaborate on certain Mesozoic and Cenozoic birds.

UNITED STATES

California

Current projects of CHARLES T. COLLINS include a reanalysis of the subfamily limits in the Apodidae (to be published in 2000 in the Durban Museum Novitates) and a description of two Pleistocene fossil swifts from Africa and Mexico. Writing projects center on the feeding habits of several modern North American and South African swifts.

With DAVID PARRIS, SYLVIA HOPE has just submitted a manuscript to the SAPE proceedings on new interpretations of birds from the Hornerstown and Navesink formations, New Jersey. Work very near completion includes a chapter on the Mesozoic record of Neornithes for the book edited by LUIS CHIAPPE and LARRY WITMER, "Over the Heads of the Dinosaurs." Future work planned is more detailed reports on some of the Cretaceous neornithines and their systematic significance.

HOPE, S. (1999): A new species of *Graculavus* from the Cretaceous of Wyoming (Aves: Charadriiformes). - In: OLSON, S.L. (ed.): Proceedings of the 4th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution, Washington, D. C. June, 1996. Smithsonian Contributions to Paleobiology, 89: 231-243.

Florida

The recent (August 1999 through August 2000) field work of DAVID STEADMAN and colleagues on late Quaternary bone deposits has included Tobago, St. Lucia, Fiji, and Tonga, with varying degrees of success. Dr. ANDREW KRATTER and Ph.D. candidate JEFF SAILER collected skeletons and skins of birds in Papua New Guinea in June and July, concentrating on columbids for SAILER'S dissertation. Ph.D. candidate MARKUS TELLKAMP is starting some preliminary research on speciation of birds in the Ecuadorian Andes. STEADMAN'S research over the next year will focus on finishing

various long-running South Pacific projects, including determining species limits in some difficult groups such as columbids and passerines. The bird collection at University of Florida may have to move to the upper floor of the museum building within the next year, in which case operations will be interrupted for at least several months.

STEADMAN, D.W., FRANKLIN, J., DRAKE, D.R., FREIFELD, H.B., BOLICK, L.A., SMITH, D.S. & MOTELY, T.J. (1999): Conservation status of forests and vertebrate communities in the Vava`u Island Group, Tonga. - Pacific Conservation Biology, 5: 191-207.

STEADMAN, D.W. (2000): [Review of] Rails: A Guide to the Rails, Crakes, Gallinules and Coots of the World by Barry Taylor. - The Auk, 117: 840-841.

STEADMAN, D.W., WORTHY, T.H., ANDERSON, A.J. & WALTER, R. (2000): New species and records of birds from prehistoric sites on Niue, Southwest Pacific. - The Wilson Bulletin, 112: 165-186.

Michigan

Together with SHELLEY FENTON, an undergraduate student, JIM HAYWARD recently completed a preliminary study of the developmental growth and histology of femora and humeri in glaucous-winged gulls. They plan to present a poster on this work at the upcoming Society of Vertebrate Paleontology meeting in Mexico City. His students and he also continue their work on eggshell taphonomy.

ROBERT W. STORER has the description of a new fossil grebe and a paper on *Thiornis* due to appear this year. His largest work in progress is a paper on the parasites of diving birds, but before long, he hopes to get back to work on another short paper on fossil grebes.

HAYWARD, J.L., ZELENISTSKY, D.K., SMITH, D.L., ZAFT, D. & CLAYBURN, J.K. (2000): Eggshell taphonomy at modern gull colonies and a dinosaur clutch site. - Palaios, 15: 343-355.

New Mexico

MARY A. ROOT is working on getting a cast of *Diatryma* for the Tertiary hall of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. She knows of three specimens of *Diatryma* from New Mexico (one is in the New Mexico Museum of Natural History) and would be interested in knowing of other specimens of *Diatryma* from other areas of the world.

The Cooper Ornithological Society will meet in Albuquerque in April of 200l (April 17-21) and there will be a plenary session on the evolution of birds. A reception will be held at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History.

North Carolina

STEVE EMSLIE has continued his research on seabirds breeding along the coast of North Carolina with three graduate students from UNCW. One student, TERRI MANESS, successfully defended her thesis on possible genotoxic exposure in Royal Terns and a paper co-authored with Steve has been submitted for publication. Further work on the foraging ecology of Sandwich and Royal Terns will be completed this fall. Steve also is continuing his research on abandoned penguin colonies and climate change in Antarctica. New data were gathered in January and February this year at Rothera Point in collaboration with the British Antarctic Survey and with funding from NASA. One graduate student accompanied Steve on this project and is completing a thesis on one component of the research that includes satellite imagery analysis. Steve will travel again to Antarctica this season, this time to the U. S. base at McMurdo in the Ross Sea, with funding from NSF. An undergraduate student will participate in the project as well.

Steve also completed work on the fossil avifauna from Porcupine Cave, Colorado, and a final paper has been submitted for publication in a book on the cave edited by TONY BARNOSKY. This book is expected to be published in spring 2001. In addition, Steve completed and submitted a paper on fossil shrews from Cement Creek Cave, Colorado, a site that dates from the middle Holocene to approximately 40,000 B. P. At least five species of shrews are represented in this assembly, including the extralimital Preble's Shrew (*Sorex preblei*) and a possible undescribed species of *Sorex*.

COLLINS, P.W., SNYDER, N.F.R. & EMSLIE, S.D. (2000): Faunal remains in California Condor nest caves. - Condor, 102: 222-227.

EMSLIE, S.D. (in press): Fossil shrews (Insectivora: Soricidae) from the late Pleistocene of Colorado. - Southwestern Naturalist.

EMSLIE, S.D. (in press): The early and middle Pleistocene avifauna from Porcupine Cave, Colorado. - In: BARNOSKY, A.D. (ed.): Early and Middle Pleistocene Biodiversity and Environmental Change: the Porcupine Cave

Fauna from Colorado. Univ. of California Press, Berkeley.

EMSLIE, S.D. & CZAPLEWSKI, N.J. (1999): Two new fossil eagles from the late Pliocene (late Blancan) of Florida and Arizona and their biogeographic implications. - Smithsonian Contributions to Paleobiology, 89: 185-198.

Pennsylvania

MARCEL VAN TUINEN is defending his dissertation research on the "molecular phylogenetic and temporal patterns among selected modern avian orders" in early October (basically on ratites and Ciconiiformes). He plans to move on starting January and is thinking about continuing his molecular research, but also developing a comparative anatomical approach.

SMITH, J.B., HARRIS, J.D., OMAR, G.I., DODSON, P. & YOU, H. (in press): Biostratigraphy and avian origins in northeastern China. - In: GAUTHIER, J.A. (ed.): New Perspectives on the Origin and Evolution of Birds. Peabody Museum of Natural History Special Publication, 5.

Washington D.C.

Through funds from the Smithsonian Institution, WILLIAM SUÁREZ, of the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural in Habana, Cuba, was able to visit the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., this past June and July, bringing many interesting fossils from Quaternary deposits in Cuba. He and STORRS OLSON spent a very intensive month studying this material, including specimens from a tarpit deposit in Matanzas Province, and preparing manuscripts. There seems to be no end to the incredible diversity of raptors in Cuba. Studies were brought to completion, or nearly so, concerning a very distinctive new species of *Falco*, more material of the enigmatic *Caracara creightoni* formerly known only from the Bahamas, a revision of the smaller living and fossil species of *Tyto* with a new species from Cuba, unstudied material of a Cuban teratorn, and a reinterpretation of the economy of the Teratornithidae. Progress was made in further understanding of fossil Accipitridae, Burhinidae, Rhinocryptidae, and an apparently new species of snipe, but these studies have been held in abeyance pending discovery of additional material.

WILLIAM HILGARTNER of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, working jointly with OLSON at the Smithsonian during the summer, resumed a faunal study of bird remains from a cave near Daiquirí in eastern Cuba.

IV. BIRD WORKING GROUP MEETING

12.-15. September 2001, Kraków (Poland)

The 4th ICAZ Bird Working Group Meeting, organized by the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, Polish Academy of Sciences, will be held in Kraków, Poland, September 12th-15th, 2001. The conference will concern all aspects of bird remains in archaeology: the exploitation of wild and domestic birds, changes in bird distributions in prehistoric time, problems of identification, bone survival and depictions of birds in ancient arts. Papers and posters are invited. Interested participants are asked to contact the organizers to be put on the mailing list. For program details contact: ZBIGNIEW M. BOCHENSKI, Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, Polish Academy of Sciences, Slawkowska 17, 31-016 Kraków, Poland; fax: +48 12 422 42 94; email: bochenski@isez.pan.krakow.pl. Further information can be found at: http://www.isez.pan.krakow.pl

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